

--- “Series of 1915” - 10 Cigars - 375 x 19 mm. ---

--- recess printed **BLACK die proof** - without an imprint - scanned at 70% scale ---

The Budget of 1908 had abolished the distinction between cigars made from *foreign* and *domestic* leaf tobacco with a unified tax of \$ 2.00 per pound on cigars, while retaining the extra tax on ‘small size’ packages of less than ten cigars at a rate of \$ 3.00 per pound.

In 1914, probably because of the onset of first world war, these rates were raised to \$ 3.00 per pound on large packages, and to \$ 4.00 per pound on packages of less than ten cigars.

The longer 235 mm. portion of this two-piece die proof of the 375 mm. ten cigar “Series of 1915”, has been initialled in black ink ‘A.A. 195’, and the shorter 140 mm. bottom portion is initialled ‘A.A. 196’. The completed strip would measure 375 x 19 mm. The Lee Broman catalogue lists the plate proof for this item, but there is no indication that this longer strip was a production item.

The catalogue would list this recess printed ten cigar “Series of 1915” black 375 x 19 mm strip as follows:

RG-561 - 10 cigars, black, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove - 4½ mm violet controls



★**RG-561 DP** - 10 Cigars, a two-piece black die proof, with sections initialled ‘A.A. 195’ and ‘A.A. 196’, mounted on light cardboard - the engravers initials, plus a work order?

--- the ten Cigar transfer roll, and the Plates, for RG-560, or for RG-561? --

[information from Chris Ryan]

In a memorandum to *D. Sims, Esq.* (Deputy Minister of National Revenue, Customs and Excise) dated June 14th 1944, *L. A. White* and *C.R. Coombs* record the destruction of the CBN cigar roll No. G-627, for the “Series of 1915”, ten cigar strip.

In a similar memorandum, dated June 8th 1944, they record the destruction of plates No. 1 and 2 for the ten cigar, “Series of 1915” strip. The forty impression plate was probably arranged - 2 by (1 x 20) strips. JBH.

In the memorandum to *D. Sims, Esq.* (Deputy Minister of National Revenue, Customs and Excise) dated June 14th 1944, *L. A. White* and *C.R. Coombs* record the destruction of the ABN die F-203 for the 215 x 15 mm. ten cigar strip of the “Series of 1915”.

The above memoranda do not specify that the roll, and the plates, listed were for the 215 x 15 mm., or for the 375 x 19 mm. strip. However, they were probably for the 215 mm. strip, since the ten cigar 375 x 19 mm strip does not appear to have been used in production, and it is doubtful that a plate was prepared.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1915 \ 10 cigars - 375 mm strip],
in MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 17th 2013, JBH